In the Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for payment transactions between a consumer and a merchant ~~account~~ comprising the steps of:

a system provider computer verifying electronically and over a computer network, that the consumer has an established credit card account;

the system provider computer creating, over a computer network, an electronic lock box account, wherein the lock box account is associated with the consumer and comprises an electronic account into which data is stored relating to the consumer and no funds are stored, wherein the consumer credit card account is stored in the lock box account;

the system provider computer establishing, over a computer network, a purchasing limit and ~~an~~ a lockbox account number, and storing, over a computer network, the purchasing limit and the lockbox account number within the lock box account;

the consumer, the system provider computer and the merchant executing, over a computer network, a purchase transaction between the consumer and [[a]] the merchant ~~account~~ comprising:

entering the lock box account number;

routing the dollar amount of the purchase transaction and the entered lock box account number to the lockbox;

verifying that the dollar amount of the purchase transaction is within the established purchasing limit and that the entered account number matches the entered lock box account number; and

completing the purchase transaction if the amount of the purchase transaction is within the established purchasing limit stored in the lock box account; and

the system provider computer, a consumer's credit card bank computer and the merchant settling, over a computer network, the transaction with the consumer's credit card account, wherein the settling step comprises:

requesting funds from the consumer's established credit card account corresponding to the amount of the purchase transaction; and

routing funds corresponding to the amount of the purchase transaction directly from the consumer's credit card account to the merchant ~~account~~.

2.   (Canceled)

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3.   (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

the system provider computer, after the step of requesting funds from the consumer's established credit card account, receiving the requested funds from the consumer's established credit card account;

the system provider computer routing the funds to the merchant ~~account~~ by wiring the purchase dollar amount of the purchase transaction to the merchant ~~account~~ less a discount fee; and

the system provider computer reducing the established purchasing limit in the lock box by the purchase dollar amount.

4.   (Currently Amended) A system for e-commerce transactions comprising:

a network comprising, in communication, a consumer computer, a merchant computer ~~providing a merchant account~~, a credit card bank computer and a system provider computer;

the consumer computer in communication with the system provider computer for creating a lock box account, establishing a purchasing limit, and associating the purchasing limit with the lock box account;

the system provider computer in communication with the credit card bank computer for verifying consumer credit card account information and for requesting and receiving funds for issuing payments to a merchant ~~account~~ after a consumer executes a purchase transaction;

the consumer computer in communication with the merchant computer ~~and merchant account~~ for executing purchase transactions totaling up to the established purchasing limit; and

the system provider computer in communication with the merchant computer ~~and merchant account~~ for verifying consumer lock box account information and for issuing funds received from the credit card bank computer to pay for consumer purchase transactions;

wherein the lock box does not store funds; and

wherein the merchant computer does not have access to the credit card account and information regarding the credit card account.

5.   (Currently Amended) A computer system for payment transactions between a consumer and a merchant ~~account~~, the system comprising:

 a system provider computer comprising computer software, the computer software comprising:

  means for verifying that a consumer has an established credit card account;

  means for creating a lock box account for storing purchase limit information;

  means for requesting funds from the consumer's established credit card account after the consumer executes a purchase transaction; and

  means for routing the requested funds to a merchant computer, which comprises a merchant ~~account~~; and

  a consumer computer in communication with the system provider computer, said consumer computer comprising:

  means for establishing a purchasing limit, said purchasing limit being associated with the lock box account; and

  wherein the lock box account does not store funds.

6.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 5, wherein the means for creating an electronic lock box account further comprises means for creating an account number and access code, the consumer computer further comprising:

 means for accessing a merchant ~~account~~ via a computer network;

 means for performing procedures for executing a purchase transaction, said purchase transaction totaling a purchase dollar amount;

 means for entering the <u>lockbox</u> account number;

 means for entering the access code; and

 means for electronically routing the <u>lockbox</u> account number and access code to the service provider computer, said service provider computer further comprising:

  means for confirming the <u>lockbox</u> account number and access code; and

  means for verifying that the purchase dollar amount is within the established purchasing limit~~; and~~,

  wherein the merchant does not have access to the credit card account and information regarding the credit card account.

7.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 6, wherein the service provider computer further comprises:

means for receiving the requested funds from the consumer's established credit card account;

means for wiring the purchase dollar amount of the transaction to a merchant ~~account~~ less a discount fee; and

means for reducing the established purchasing limit in the lock box by the purchase dollar amount.

8.   (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method according to claim 1, wherein the credit card account comprises any of one or more accounts consisting of a credit card account, a debit card account, a smart card account, a check cashing card account or an electronic account recording service.

9.   (Currently Amended)   The computer implemented method according to claim 8, wherein <u>lockbox</u> account number further comprises a lock box account access code.

10.   (Previously Presented)   The computer implemented method according to claim 9, wherein the only information needed by the lock box to verify the purchase transaction is the established lock box account number, the entered lock box account number, the established lock box account access code, the entered lock box account access code, the established dollar purchase amount and the transaction dollar purchase amount.

11.   (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method according to claim 1, further comprising <u>the system provider computer</u> reducing the established purchasing limit in the lock box by the amount of the purchase transaction.

12.   (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method according to claim 1, further comprising establishing the amount of the purchasing limit stored in the lock box by the consumer.

13.   (Currently Amended) The system for e-commerce transactions of claim 4, wherein the consumer computer is in communication with the system provider computer for establishing ~~an~~ <u>a lockbox</u> account number and access code, and associating the <u>lockbox</u> account number and access code with the lock box account.

14.   (Currently Amended) The system for e-commerce transactions of claim 13, wherein the consumer computer is in communication with the merchant computer for entering ~~an~~ <u>a lockbox</u> account number and an access code during a purchase transaction.

15.   (Currently Amended) The system for e-commerce transactions of claim 14, wherein the system provider computer is in communication with the merchant computer for verifying the <u>lockbox</u> account number and access code entered during the purchase transaction.